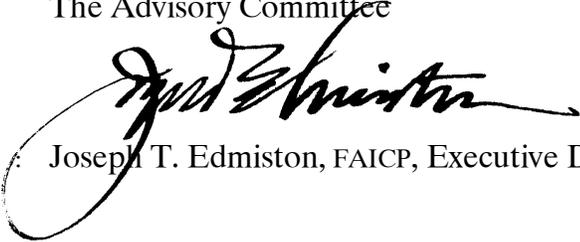


## Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 4, 2005

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item No. 20: Consideration of resolution authorizing adding the following projects to the Conservancy's Workprogram for the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996 (Proposition A): Elysian Valley-Marsh Street Park; Browns Canyon-118 Freeway South; Aliso Wash-Los Angeles River Confluence Restoration; Aliso Wash-Limekiln Creek Restoration; Plummer-Variel Restoration; Plummer-Topanga (SR-27) Restoration; Dry Canon Creek-101 Freeway Restoration; Vista Hermosa Park Restoration, and Pacoima Wash Greenway.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing adding the following projects to the Conservancy's Workprogram for the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996 (Proposition A): Elysian Valley-Marsh Street Park; Browns Canyon-118 Freeway South; Aliso Wash-Los Angeles River Confluence Restoration; Aliso Wash-Limekiln Creek Restoration; Plummer-Variel Restoration; Plummer-Topanga (SR-27) Restoration; Dry Canyon Creek-101 Freeway Restoration; Vista Hermosa Park Restoration, and Pacoima Wash Greenway.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33203 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Conservancy's Initial Workprogram for the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996 was adopted in 1996. Subsequent to that adoption, the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor was expanded a third time to include all lands south of the Antelope Valley (SR14) Freeway in the Santa Clara River watershed. In addition, the passage of Proposition 50 modified the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains Zone to include all portions of the Los Angeles River watershed from the northernmost point of the City of Vernon. During the last nine years, projects have been periodically added. Projects must be on the Conservancy's Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996 (Proposition A) Workprogram to qualify for any portion of that funding.

The proposed action would add nine projects to the Conservancy's Initial Workprogram for the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996. A brief project description, and the rationale for adding each project follows. Maps for all of the projects except Elysian Valley-Marsh Street Park are included in the staff reports for agenda items 18 and 19.

**Elysian Valley-Marsh Street Park**

This approximately five-acre project along the Los Angeles River was acquired by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority approximately four years ago. Initial improvements have begun. It has excellent characteristics to be funded by Proposition 50 or recently passed Measure O in the City of Los Angeles. The MRCA submitted a prospective grant application to the City of Los Angeles Integrated Regional Watershed Management group to obtain Phase One Proposition 50 Chapter 8 funding. Such projects require a minimum ten percent cash match, and projects with a match up to 35 percent score substantially higher. In order for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), to use Proposition A Big Five Excess Funds for the matching portion of this grant, the project must be on the Proposition A Workprogram.

**Browns Canyon-118 Freeway-South**

This 11.5-acre project provides prime, shady, and level recreation and habitat lands at the edge of San Fernando Valley. It has excellent characteristics to be funded by Proposition 50 or recently passed Measure O in the City of Los Angeles. The MRCA intends to submit a prospective grant application to the City of Los Angeles Integrated Regional Watershed Management group to obtain Phase Two Proposition 50 Chapter 8 funding. In order for the MRCA to use Proposition A Big Five Excess Funds for the matching portion of this grant, the project must be on the Proposition A Workprogram.

**Aliso Wash-Limekiln Creek Restoration**

This 10-acre project would capture and treat stormwater runoff in a natural setting with high quality restored habitat. All improvements are proposed on lands owned by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and Los Angeles County Watershed Management Division. The site already supports extensive recreational use and has strong potential for creating wetlands with stormwater runoff. The MRCA submitted a prospective grant application to the City of Los Angeles Integrated Regional Watershed Management group to obtain Phase One Proposition 50 Chapter 8 funding. In order for the MRCA to use Proposition A Big Five Excess Funds for the matching portion of this grant, the project must be on the Proposition A Workprogram.

**Plummer-Variel Restoration**

This unique, 18-acre project is located just east of the Santa Susana Wash in Chatsworth. All of the land is privately owned (90 percent in a single ownership). This large, flat open area would make an unparalleled urban park and natural area. Minor improvements are necessary to capture and treat storm runoff. Minor improvements are also necessary to provide adequate public access and use. It has excellent characteristics to be funded by Proposition 50 or recently passed Measure O in the City of Los Angeles. The MRCA intends to submit a prospective grant application to the City of Los Angeles Integrated Regional Watershed Management group to

obtain Phase Two Proposition 50 Chapter 8 funding. In order for the MRCA to use Proposition A Big Five Excess Funds for the matching portion of this grant, the project must be on the Proposition A Workprogram.

**Plummer-Topanga (SR-27) Restoration**

This 13.5-acre project proposes to use a combination of unused street rights-of way and private land to create urban green space and habitat. The probable project size is closer to 1.7 acres because of land costs. Minor improvements are necessary to capture and treat storm runoff. Minor improvements are also necessary to provide adequate public access and use. The MRCA submitted a prospective grant application to the City of Los Angeles Integrated Regional Watershed Management group to obtain Phase One Proposition 50 Chapter 8 funding. In order for the MRCA to use Proposition A Big Five Excess Funds for the matching portion of this grant, the project must be on the Proposition A Workprogram.

**Dry Canyon Creek-101 Freeway Restoration**

This 4.3-acre project would convert surplus Caltrans parcels and 101-Freeway rights-of-ways into urban green space and habitat. Funding may be necessary to acquire less than two acres of Caltrans surplus property. Minor improvements are necessary to capture and treat storm runoff. Minor improvements are also necessary to provide adequate public access and use. The MRCA submitted a prospective grant application to the City of Los Angeles Integrated Regional Watershed Management group to obtain Phase One Proposition 50 Chapter 8 funding. In order for the MRCA to use Proposition A Big Five Excess Funds for the matching portion of this grant, the project must be on the Proposition A Workprogram.

**Aliso Wash-Los Angeles River Confluence Restoration**

This 2.75-acre project would enhance an existing green space currently heavily used by surrounding residents. Most of the subject property is publicly-owned but there are a few small private parcels with gardens and electronic equipment. The project's strong recreation value, by itself, warrants inclusion on the Workprogram. Minor improvements are also necessary to provide adequate public access and use. This project could be funded with Proposition A Big Five River Parkway Excess Funds.

**Vista Hermosa Park Restoration**

This eight-acre project in downtown Los Angeles will create a natural park with numerous visitor serving amenities and watershed features. The Conservancy has made several grants to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the planning and development of the park. In order for the MRCA to use Proposition A Big Five Excess Funds for this project, it must be on the Proposition A Workprogram.

**Pacoima Wash Greenway**

Agenda Item 20  
April 4, 2005  
Page 4

This 180-acre project includes numerous, mainly privately-owned, parcels along both sides of Pacoima Wash in the City of San Fernando and northwards towards the San Gabriel Mountains. The project is designed to form a greenway and bikeway that extends a minimum of three miles from the edge of the mountains to the core of the San Fernando Valley. The MRCA submitted two prospective grant applications to the City of Los Angeles Integrated Regional Watershed Management group to obtain Proposition 50 Chapter 8 funding. One grant is to improve property recently acquired by the MRCA with a Conservancy grant. In order for the MRCA to use Proposition A Big Five Excess Funds for the matching portion of these grants, the project must be on the Proposition A Workprogram.